

Message Text

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TAGS: TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: COUNSELOR'S INTERVIEW WITH TURKISH CORRESPONDENT

1. DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ GAVE ON THE RECORD INTERVIEW MARCH 15 TO NEW YORK-BASED HURRIYET CORRESPONDENT, DOGAN ULUC. MAIN TOPIC WAS CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF US-TURKEY DCA AND PROBLEMS IN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. INTERVIEW ALSO INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF USSR/TURKEY RELATIONS, TURKEY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, CYPRUS, AND THE AEGEAN. ULUC SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO WRITE SEVERAL ARTICLES BASED ON INTERVIEW. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVIEW. IT
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TOUCHES UPON EVERY AREA DISCUSSED AND INCLUDES ALL OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED BY ULUC.

2. NIMETZ TERMED TURKISH REACTION TO SECRETARY VANCE'S RESPONSE TO SENATOR SCHWEIKER, (STATE 063814) OF MARCH 9, VERY UNFORTUNATE, POINTING OUT THAT THE TURKS INCORRECTLY INTERPRETED IT AS A MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT. A US REPORTER WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE HEARING HAD COMMENTED TO NIMETZ THAT HE SAW NO CHANGE IN US POLICY. NIMETZ EMPHASIZED THAT WE DO NOT LINK OUR DECISION ON THE DCA TO ANY SINGLE EVENT,

AND THAT WE CONSIDER THE ECEVIT INITIATIVES RE THE MONTREUX SUMMIT AND UNDERTAKING TO ACT TO RESOLVE CYPRUS AS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND VERY CREATIVE. ECEVIT'S PLAN TO COME FORWARD WITH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS WAS HIS IDEA, IN FACT HE

STATED THAT TURKEY SHOULD DO SO REGARDLESS OF OUTSIDE VIEWS, BECAUSE SUCH A COURSE IS CLEARLY IN TURKEY'S INTEREST. WE WELCOME AND APPLAUD HIS STATEMENTS AND ARE NOT SEEKING TO EXTRACT ANYTHING FROM HIM.

3. WE ARE PREPARING FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. ECEVIT UNDERSTANDS OUR CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION. THE FACT THAT HE CAME INTO OFFICE IN JANUARY AND HAS BEEN MAKING VARIOUS POLICY DECISIONS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY ARE CONNECTED WITH OUR PREPARATIONS. THE TIMING IS COINCIDENTAL. WE REGRET THE FLURRY OVER THE SECRETARY'S ANSWER TO SENATOR SCHWEIKER QUERY. WE WANT TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH TURKEY; WE REALIZE THE EMBARGO HAS HARMFUL EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONSHIP AND WANT TO PLACE THE RELATIONSHIP ON A BETTER BASIS. WE HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR TURKEY'S DEMOCRACY AND A LONG STANDING FRIENDSHIP WITH TURKEY. OUR ECONOMIC TIES SHOULD BE CLOSER. AT THE SAME TIME WE SHARE THE VIEW OF MOST NATIONS THAT THESE TEMPORARY FINANCIAL CRISES ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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FAR BETTER HANDLED BY PROFESSIONALS AT IMF THAN THROUGH BILATERAL INTERVENTIONS. WE KNOW TURKEY HAS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND WE WANT TO PLAY A SYMPATHETIC AND HELPFUL ROLE. IN GENERAL WE STRONGLY BELIEVE OUR RELATIONSHIP SHOULD GROW AND IMPROVE, NOT DETERIORATE.

4. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION WHY CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS WERE POSTPONED TO EARLY APRIL FROM MARCH, NIMETZ EXPLAINED THAT SCHEDULE CHANGE HAD BEEN MADE FOR VARIETY OF REASONS. WE HAD TALKED ABOUT VARIOUS DATES WITH CONGRESS BUT THE CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR WAS PRETTY WELL FILLED UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF APRIL.

5. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION AS TO HOW THE USG EVALUATED TURKEY, NIMETZ SAID THAT TURKEY PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE WHICH SHOULD INCREASE RATHER THAN DECREASE. MEMBERSHIP IN NATO RIGHTLY INVOLVES MORE THAN JUST A MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. AT PRESENT, ALL NATO COUNTRIES ARE DEMOCRACIES. THIS IS IMPORTANT SYMBOLICALLY AND ALLOWS EACH OF THE ALLIES TO HELP SUSTAIN AND MAINTAIN DEMOCRATIC IDEALS THROUGHOUT THE ALLIANCE. WE FEEL TURKEY AS THE ONLY MOSLEM COUNTRY PROVIDES THE ALLIANCE WITH A SPECIAL PERSPECTIVE. STRATEGICALLY, TURKEY HAS ALWAYS BEEN IMPORTANT. THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN IS A VITAL AND UNSTABLE AREA AND TURKEY IS AN ELEMENT OF STABILITY THERE. TURKEY BORDERS ON A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE SOVIET

UNION. IT IS GEOGRAPHICALLY CLOSE TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE OIL PRODUCING REGIONS. TURKEY'S VALUE TO NATO IS PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED BECAUSE OF THE COMMITMENT SHE HAS CONSISTENTLY MADE TO IT. WITH REGARD TO CONGRESSIONAL

ATTITUDES TOWARD TURKEY, NIMETZ STATED THAT HE FELT THAT IN THE CONGRESS THERE WAS A GROWING AWARENESS OF TURKEY AND A DESIRE ON THE PART OF MANY TO BEGIN TO REBUILD OUR RELATIONSHIP IN A SATISFACTORY WAY.

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6. ASKED FOR HIS VIEW ON SOVIET-TURKISH RELATIONS, NIMETZ COMMENTED THAT "RUSSIA" HAS ALWAYS HAD AN INTEREST DIRECTED TOWARD THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THAT THE BOSPHORUS AND THE DARDENELLES ARE ROADS TO THE MEDITERRANEAN. SOVIET AID TO TURKEY IS A POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC INSTRUMENT. WE DO NOT DENIGRATE SOVIET PROJECT AID FOR TURKEY. IN FACT WE HOPE THAT SOVIET PROJECTS WILL BE HELPFUL TO TURKEY, IT SHOULD BE NOTED ALSO THAT THE SOVIET FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN HAS INCREASED AND THEY HAVE A GROWING PRESENCE IN THE REGION.

7. ASKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF US ELECTRONIC-INTELLIGENCE BASES IN TURKEY, NIMETZ REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT A MILITARY STRATEGIST. HE BELIEVED THAT WHILE THE BASES WERE CLEARLY IMPORTANT THE BASIC RELATIONSHIP AND TURKEY'S POLITICAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE WEST WERE OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE.

8. ASKED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE AN UPWARD ADJUSTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE THAT WAS ENVISAGED IN THE DCA DUE TO THE TIME ELAPSED SINCE ITS SIGNING, NIMETZ EXPLAINED THAT WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT IN ORDER TO REACH NATO STANDARDS THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES WOULD IN THE LONG RUN NEED MORE THAN WAS ENVISAGED IN THE DCA, THE PRACTICAL FIRST QUESTION WAS PASSAGE OF THE DCA ITSELF. HE CONSIDERED IT PREMATURE TO TALK ABOUT ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS WHEN WE DON'T HAVE THE DCA PASSED INTO LAW. ASKED ABOUT THE CHANCES OF ITS PASSAGE, NIMETZ SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CONFIDENTLY ASSESS THEM. IN THE HOUSE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WERE GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC BUT ONE MUST REMEMBER THERE ARE 435 MEMBERS IN THE HOUSE, MANY OF WHOM DON'T THINK OF ISSUES LIKE THE DCA EVERY DAY. THE SENATE IS PREOCCUPIED WITH PANAMA

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WHICH COULD BE A DELAYING FACTOR. HOWEVER, IN GENERAL,

THERE NOW SEEMSTO BE A GROWING AWARENESS IN THE CONGRESS OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.

9. ASKED WHY IT HAS TAKEN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SO LONG TO SUBMIT THE DCA TO CONGRESS, NIMETZ EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE MANY REASONS: IT WAS A CONTROVERSIAL DOCUMENT AND IT WAS THE FIRST TERM OF THE PRESIDENT. THE ADMINISTRATION ENDORSED IT IN PRINCIPLE AND DEFERRED SUBMISSION BECAUSE TO SUBMIT AND LOSE WOULD BE BAD FOR OUR RELATION-

SHIP. MOREOVER AS A NEW ADMINISTRATION IT WANTED TIME TO ASSESS THE ENTIRE SITUATION. WHEN QUERIED ON THE AVEROFF STATEMENT THAT THE LATTER DID NOT WANT TO SIGN A US-GREEK DCA, NIMETZ REPLIED THAT WE HAD NEGOTIATED AND INITIALED A US-GREEK DCA BUT THAT WE DID NOT WANT TO PRESSURE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT WE HAD NO REAL PROBLEMS IN GREECE BECAUSE ALL OF OUR BASES THERE WERE IN FULL OPERATION, TO WHICH MR. ULUC QUIPPED "OF COURSE, THERE IS NO EMBARGO". NIMETZ STATED THE DECISION ON THE TURKISH DCA WAS NOT DEPENDENT ON A GREEK DCA AND ASSURED ULUC THAT WE WILL DEAL WITH THE TURKISH DCA ON ITS OWN MERITS.

ASKED ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GREEK LOBBY, NIMETZ COMMENTED THAT IN US POLITICS ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS OF COURSE HAVE AN INFLUENCE, WHICH HE CONSIDERS A HEALTHY ASPECT OF OUR SOCIETY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EMBARGO WAS NOT EXCLUSIVELY AN ETHNIC MATTER, BUT PRIMARILY AN ISSUE INVOLVING THE ILLEGAL USE OF US WEAPONS. TO CALL IT THE WORK OF A LOBBY WAS TOO SIMPLISTIC. REGARDLESS OF THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TURKISH OPERATION IN CYPRUS WAS JUSTIFIED, IT DID NOT HAVE WIDE APPROVAL IN THE CONGRESS. NIMETZ COMMENTED THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT MANY PEOPLE IN TURKEY THOUGHT THAT THE GREEK LOBBY RULED THE US AND THEREFORE THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR A BETTER RELATIONSHIP. NIMETZ REITERATED THAT THIS WAS FAR TOO SIMPLISTIC AND THAT CONGRESS DOES NOT MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS SOLELY GUIDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY ETHNIC CONSIDERATIONS.

10. ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY US INTENT TO EXTEND ECONOMIC AID TO TURKEY, NIMETZ REPLIED THAT TURKEY WAS NOW WORKING OUT ITS OWN STABILIZATION PROGRAM AND WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE IMF. GOING TO THE IMF IS THE NECESSARY FIRST STEP AND THE ADVISABLE ONE BECAUSE THEREBY NO ONE COUNTRY IS IN THE UNTENABLE POSITION OF DICTATING POLICY TO ANOTHER. HE COMMENTED THAT HE HAD GOOD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT RECENTLY AND THAT NOW WE UNDERSTAND THEIR PROBLEMS BETTER. WE CONTINUE TO HAVE A SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM, SINCE TURKEY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE A CLEAR SOURCE OF CONCERN. TURKEY IN THE LONG RUN HAS A SOUND ECONOMY AND HAS GOOD LABOR AND

NATURAL RESOURCES. WE WILL REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH THE GOT AND TRY TO BE HELPFUL. AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE NO IMMEDIATE PROGRAM FOR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.

11. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHO WOULD TESTIFY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE DCA NIMETZ SAID THAT SUCH TACTICAL QUESTIONS HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED SINCE THE MAJOR POLICY DECISION ITSELF HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN YET BY THE PRESIDENT.

12. ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE DCA FAILED NIMETZ SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER IT WAS USEFUL TO SPECULATE. HE COMMENTED THAT NEITHER THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT NOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD NEGOTIATED THE DCA BUT THAT IT NONE THE LESS HAD TAKEN ON A SYMBOLIC VALUE - - PERHAPS EXCEEDING ITS REAL IMPORTANCE AND AS SUCH, WAS BEING MADE A TEST OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. HE OBSERVED THAT HAD PRESIDENT CARTER AND ECEVIT HAD CLEAN SLATES, THEY MIGHT HAVE SOUGHT TO RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP IN A DIFFERENT WAY.
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ASKED IF THE US WOULD CONSIDER RENTING BASES IN TURKEY IF THE DCA FAILED, NIMETZ EXPRESSED DOUBT AND ADDED THAT WE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO GO TO CONGRESS FOR THAT MONEY.

13. NIMETZ ASKED ULUC IF HE WAS NOT GOING TO ASK ANYTHING ABOUT CYPRUS--WHEN ULUC ASKED FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION, NIMETZ STATED THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL. NOW THERE IS AN INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS THAT CYPRUS SHOULD BE AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WITH A FEDERAL SYSTEM CONSISTING OF TWO ZONES. THE AMOUNT OF TERRITORY IN THE ZONES HAS TO BE ADJUSTED AND A CONSTITUTION HAS TO BE WORKED OUT IN A MANNER FAIR TO BOTH SIDES. LAST YEAR THE GREEKS PUT A MAP ON THE TABLE: THIS YEAR THE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS WILL PUT DOWN A MAP AND A CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL. WITH THESE TWO SUBMISSIONS THERE IS NO REASON WHY REASONABLE PEOPLE CANNOT WORK OUT A COMPROMISE. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE TURKISH SIDE WANTS A COMPROMISE SOLUTION AND THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WANTS TO GET THE PROBLEM RESOLVED. MOST OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS ALSO WANT A SETTLEMENT, SO WE THINK THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR SERIOUS NEGOTIATION.

14. ASKED ABOUT US VIEWS ON THE AEGEAN, NIMETZ STATED THAT WE HAVE NO INVOLVEMENT EXCEPT TO URGE BOTH SIDES TO APPROACH IT IN A PEACEFUL WAY. HE NOTED THAT THE AEGEAN WAS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND HE HOPED THAT BY GOOD FAITH, METHODS COULD BE FOUND TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCE. HE NOTED THAT SIMILAR ISSUES HAD BEEN RESOLVED BETWEEN DENMARK AND GERMANY AND BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

15. NIMETZ DECLINED TO RESPOND TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHICH

OF THE RECENT TURKISH GOVERNMENTS WAS BEST EQUIPPED TO
DEAL WITH TURKEY'S VARIED AND PRESSING PROBLEMS.

16. NOTE: THIS CABLE WAS DRAFTED BEFORE ARTICLE APPEARED
IN HURRIYET. VANCE

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